



**Global FISH Alliance**  
***Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest***

**Semi-Annual Report #8**  
**October 31, 2012**

**Report Covering**  
**April 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012 Activities**

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# I. Summary of Activities

The Global FISH Alliance (G-FISH) promotes sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices through the application of a system-wide approach that balances economic, environmental, governmental, and social components essential to enhancing livelihoods and biodiversity. Supported by the U.S. Government and partners, G-FISH brings together government, private sector, and civil society to work collaboratively on specific fisheries around the world.

This document describes activities under the Global FISH Alliance during the period from April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012. As summarized here and detailed in subsequent sections of this report, the major activities during this reporting period included:

## Component 1: Alliance Development

### Management

- Team Transition to FHI 360: In June, the make-up of the G-FISH team changed with the departure of Zach Fonner and the addition of Roberto Martin.
- Cost Share and Leverage: To date, G-FISH has captured and received commitments of \$470,071 (15%) for cost share as well as \$5,235,051 (172%) in leveraged funds.

### Partnerships and Collaboration

- Honduras: The Global FISH Alliance has worked with current Alliance members and other partners in the three countries where the program is active including the Center for Marine Ecology (CME), Central American regional fisheries organizations (OSPESCA /MASPLESCA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and many others over the last six months.
- Mozambique: G-FISH continues a demonstration SCALE (System-wide Collaboration for Action on Livelihoods and the Environment) effort in northern Mozambique's Pemba Bay focused on reforming the Bay's fisheries. G-FISH has engaged Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to conduct a perceptions survey and develop recommendations for fisheries reforms.
- Cambodia: G-FISH continues to do a SCALE demonstration on the Tonle Sap fishery of Cambodia in the Kampong Thom Province. In Cambodia, G-FISH has planted 11,000 seedlings, held more than 27 meetings with over 2000 participants and has initiated a flooded forest replanting campaign, community patrolling initiative, and capacity building trainings for local communities.

### Associate Awards

FHI 360 continues to work with partners and explore opportunities for Associate Awards. G-FISH also continues to search for opportunities to use the SCALE methodology and strategic communications to improve biodiversity program outcomes.

## Component 2: Knowledge Management and Sharing

### Communication

#### Conferences and Meetings

G-FISH sponsored and attended the Seafood Summit in Hong Kong hosted by SeaWeb. G-FISH participated in three panel discussions at this event relating to work in Honduras, Cambodia, and Mozambique. In addition, G-FISH participated in the launch of the Global Partnership for Oceans, sponsored a gathering for development of a triple bottom line investment fund for oceans, and continued to attend meetings related to oceans around Washington, DC.

#### Media Coverage

Demonstration programs Cambodia, Honduras, and Mozambique has been strong. Additionally, local coverage of G-FISH's work in Honduras was covered in multiple media outlets.

### **Information and Data**

#### Fisheries Course

G-FISH worked with eight partners to develop a course to promote fisheries management to USAID staff.

#### Materials Produced

G-FISH produced two quarterly G-FISH Tales and two success stories about the Honduras lobster fishery for the Seafood Summit in September 2012. G-FISH also developed a one-pager for SLI and a new brochure.

## **Component 3: Spiny Lobster Initiative**

### **Honduras**

The Initiative continues with strong momentum in Honduras. Going into its final year, SLI is poised to be at the forefront of ensuring the scuba diving ban is final in 2013, the new fisheries law is in committee in the National Congress and should be approved and implemented by 2013, and the establishment of the largest marine protected area with rights-based use in Central America is designed, funded, and starting implementation by 2013.

## II. April 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012 Activities and Results

### Alliance Development

#### Management

#### Cost Share and Leverage

G-FISH has captured and commitments of \$470,071 (15%) of funding spend to date. In addition to cost share, G-FISH has accumulated \$5,235,051 (172%) in leveraged funds. Due to a calculation error in conversion, the total for FY2012 is \$193,391 or 6% of total cost share to date. G-FISH has identified and documented cost share and leverage of activities or other efforts that have complimented, supported, or enhanced G-FISH goals and objectives including partnerships with WCS, TNC, OSPESCA, Darden Restaurants Inc., and CME, sponsorship of key technical meetings, new business development and leveraging of funds to support improved fisheries management, and media coverage.

#### Partnerships and Collaboration

G-FISH has worked to improve knowledge management and foster a global learning agenda on fisheries conservation by sharing information with partners and the wider community and promoting knowledge exchange based on its country programs. In the last six months, G-FISH has continued strong relationships with more than 10 partners globally. This expansive network of partners allows G-FISH to promote learning and enhanced knowledge in best practices in fisheries management building and dispersing excellence and technical leadership in the three target countries and around the globe. Moving into the final year, those partnerships will extend even further bringing on Alliance partner University of Rhode Island as a Senior Technical Advisor. In addition, a professor from the University of Washington will be coming on as a new partner providing social scientific technical expertise linked to fisheries. Partnerships include:

#### Honduras

- The Spiny Lobster Initiative is working with Center for Marine Ecology (**CME**) and The Nature Conservancy (**TNC**) on a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Honduran Caribbean which is funded by the Summit Foundation.
- The Spiny Lobster Initiative continues to collaborate with Environmental Defense Fund (**EDF**) following on an exchange visit of Honduran lobster fishers to Belize to learn about the successes of conservation measures in Belize and the benefits these efforts have for local communities.
- In collaboration with **MASCPLESCA** (Sub-Regional Fisheries Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries), G-FISH has co-organized and attended meetings for the scuba and trap lobster industry and created a regional lobster working group to act as technical advisors for the Central American region.
- SLI continues to collaborate with Alliance member **WWF** in their work on the transition plan from scuba dive fishing and on their work with the trap industry to implement a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) working toward certification with the trap industry.

#### Mozambique

- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): In Mozambique, G-FISH entered into a sub-agreement with WCS to do a perceptions survey of fishers from communities using the fisheries resources of Pemba Bay. This study culminated in an in-depth report of the findings of the survey as well as a policy brief that will be used to inform

fishers and fisheries managers in Pemba of best practices to reform and improve fisheries conservation while improving livelihoods.

### Cambodia

- WorldFish Center: G-FISH continues to collaborate with WorldFish Center in Cambodia on their Stargo Project as both organizations implement activities in the Path Sanday community of the Tonle Sap Lake.
- Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT): G-FISH entered into a sub-agreement with FACT to implement conservation and management strategies in Phat Sanday.
- Cambodian Fisheries Administration (FiA): G-FISH continues its relationship with the Fisheries Administration acting as a facilitator in maintaining relations and implementing solutions.

### **Team Transition**

Zach Fonner, Program Officer for G-FISH, has moved on to another position within FHI 360. The G-FISH Team gained Roberto Martin, a Senior Program Officer at FHI 360 who most recently managed the USAID-funded Global Sustainable Tourism Alliance country programs in the Dominican Republic, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Mr. Martin's expertise is in the social and economic dimensions of natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, institutional strengthening, community participation, and monitoring and evaluation. Mr. Martin will be managing the Mozambique country portfolio and leading monitoring and evaluation efforts for G-FISH overall.

## **Mozambique - Pemba Bay Initiative**

The success of the G-FISH Pemba Bay Initiative and the SCALE process upon which it was designed, is predicated on having a system of stakeholders that defines the agenda of the Initiative, has a common understanding of the opportunities and constraints and is willing to act collaboratively to undertake priority actions to achieve desired results.

The Pemba Bay Initiative has three major, inter-related objectives:

- 1) To increase social capital and demand for sustainable management
- 2) To promote ecosystem-based approaches to fishery management
- 3) To establish and promote social and economic incentives

During the second half of FY2012, the focus of the Initiative has been to solidify the role of the Conservation Committee as the forum for coordinating and facilitating the implementation of a common fishery agenda, strengthen the knowledge base of program stakeholders regarding the status of the fishery and the role of CCPs in fishery management, and motivate stakeholders to engage in collaborative actions. In the past year, G-FISH facilitated or participated in 62 meetings with stakeholders and partners with a total of 529 participants, 80 or 15% of which were women.

### **Partnership and Conservation Activities**

#### *G-FISH Conservation Committee*

The Conservation Committee is the face of the G-FISH Initiative in Pemba Bay. Locally referred to as the “Iniciativa Local para o Desenvolvimento da Pesca Sustentavel na Baia de Pemba”, the committee meets weekly (as of mid-September it meets twice a month) to discuss issues of concern to the fishery stakeholders and to facilitate implementation of the initiative work plan. The local G-FISH team, two consultants transitioning to long-term staff, carries out additional work between meetings, including hosting community meetings and gatherings, establishing and building relationship with partners and disseminating information to stakeholders. The work of G-FISH responds to the

demands of the Committee with the premise that sustainable change is most effective when responding to local demands. Therefore, the Conservation Committee helps G-FISH vet interventions and also advises G-FISH when outside expertise is needed.

During the April 1 to September 30, 2012 period, the Conservation Committee meet 16 times with average participation of 8 members, a very positive turnout, especially for members that travel from communities across the bay. 17% of the total attendants were women. Though the number of women may be small, they have brought a high level of enthusiasm to the Initiative. The Conservation Committee is composed of Community Leaders, fishers, Community Council of Fisheries (CCP) leaders, and government officials from the Department of Fisheries and Department of Education. In addition to the Conservation Committee meetings, G-FISH regularly had community outreach and sensitization meetings as well as community forums for fishers, community leaders, NGOs, and government officials could discuss needed reforms to fisheries management and create strategies to achieve the reforms.

### *Trainings*

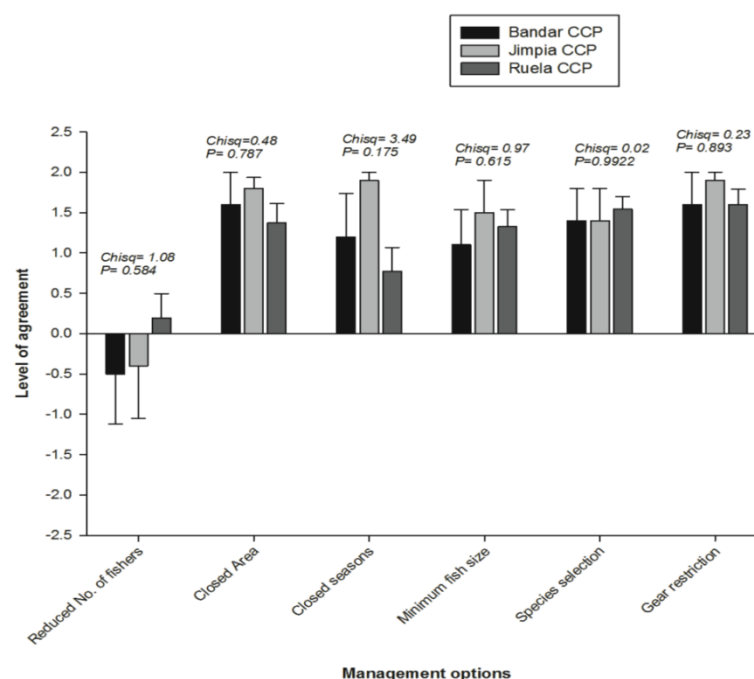
Between April and September, G-FISH conducted a total of 13 trainings in the Pemba Bay area, involving 220 community members, 6% of which were women. Two sets of trainings were conducted.

### *WCS Perceptions and Management Options study*

The first set of trainings took place in four different communities in June 2012. 79 community members were informed about the findings of the survey that had been conducted by WCS in February 2012. The findings were also presented at a meeting of the Conservation Committee. The WCS researcher returned to Pemba to share findings regarding the different fishery management options and the costs and benefits of these options, analyses of the perceptions of Pemba community members about the different options, and experiences from other research sites. Key WCS findings include:

- Generalized support for fisheries restrictions
- Fishers want protected areas
- Desire for restructuring of enforcement entities
- Graduated sanctions for violations of fishing regulations
- Positive view of process to define alternative management regimes

This homogeneity in perception among CCPs, as described in the graph below, increases the likelihood of the successful implementation of improved management practices.



WCS' study resulted in a number of broad-scale recommendations that form the next steps in advancing co-management in the Pemba Bay region.

- Beginning the process of research on the minimum sizes for reproduction and optimal yields and then legalizing and enforcing minimum size restrictions for key fish species.
- Beginning the process of identifying and legally establishing fisheries closures of around 5 – 10 km<sup>2</sup>
- Increasing the numbers, extent, and degree of participation in fishers community organizations
- Developing greater democracy and particularly participation of experienced fishers in decision-making
- Discussing the types of gears that need to be restricted or modified
- Discussing and developing a system of graduated sanctions in all CCPs
- Increasing dialogue, research, and education about the possible costs and benefits of the various management restrictions
- Increasing collaboration between CCPs with governments in acknowledging and enforcing CCP bylaws

#### *Role of CCPs in Mozambican Fishery Legislation*

During the months of July and August, 8 trainings took place in 7 communities around Pemba Bay. The purpose of these trainings was to inform community and CCP leaders and members of the specifics of Mozambican law that deal with the creation of the CCPs and their role in managing their fisheries.

#### *Building the knowledge base*

In order to 1) raise awareness; 2) promote local ownership; and 3) improve compliance in the Pemba fishery, G-FISH, through the Conservation Committee, is expanding awareness and technical knowledge of fisheries issues. G-FISH communication efforts in Pemba include monthly newsletters, radio programming, development of print materials, working in schools, and town-hall meetings. In addition to public communication initiatives, G-FISH is building the scientific basis for fishery management by partnering with WCS, a respected science-based conservation organization, as well as reaching out to Mozambican fisheries entities (IIP and IDPPE) and academic institutions (UniLorio). Finally, all this information is being shared with stakeholders and integrated into program activities through focused trainings and presentations.

#### *Community Strengthening*

As part of our awareness building campaign and call to action to improve compliance and co-management of the Bay, G-FISH has conducted a series of meetings and trainings around Pemba. G-FISH is confident that local communities understand the need for better management and are motivated to work together to address these serious issues. At this time, however, Pemba Bay CCPs leaders have not articulated clearly, to their communities or to their government counterparts, how they intend to organize themselves to be able to conduct effective management. G-FISH has been pushing each CCP to present draft action plans so that the Initiative can determine how best to help strengthen the CCPs. This assistance can be in the form of leadership training, proposal development, small business management, or even conflict management.

### **Collaboration and Communications**

#### *Strengthen Partnerships and Commitments with Local Government Entities*

Representatives from government fisheries agencies are permanent members of the Conservation Committee and have participated in most community meetings and trainings. Their active involvement with the Conservation Committee has served to increase communication and trust among all partners, while ensuring that relevant information is shared and discussed in a participatory environment.



For example, during the community trainings on Mozambican Fisheries Legislation (see below), government representatives were present to explain policies and procedures and to clarify misconceptions. They answered questions and were able to learn first-hand about particular community issues. In keeping with the purpose of participatory and representative meetings, government representatives and community members alike left these meeting and trainings knowing what the next steps in the process are, and who is responsible for follow-up.

#### *Radio Programming*

With no daily newspaper in Pemba, a significant number of residents get their news and information via the radio. In an effort to further reach our target audiences, G-FISH is airing occasional radio programs addressing fisheries related issues around Pemba. The first radio program was a panel discussion that aired on March 24 and March 25, 2012 and covered the topic of: **What is sustainability and how do we create a sustainable fishery?** This program was followed by a second radio show on April 24, 2012 which discussed **Fishery rules and regulations and the role of the CCPs.** The panels included a researcher, government representative, a community leader, and Community Council of Fisheries (CCP) leader. The programs have had a broad reach around Pemba and many fishers and community members have contacted G-FISH asking to get involved in the local initiative and contribute their thoughts and expertise. G-FISH intends to develop at least three more radio shows tailored to the communication needs of the system.

#### *Feria Economica*

During June 23-25 of this year, G-FISH, along with a group of community women, Uwa Wathiana, participated in the yearly Cabo Delgado Economic Fair. This fair was attended by government officials and other dignitaries and was a great opportunity to showcase the Initiative. The Initiative requested the presence of the CCPs but they were unable to coordinate their participation. However, they have committed to be part of the fair for next year. The Initiative is currently making preparations for the annual Fisherman's Day (Dia do Pescador) which will be celebrated in late November. G-FISH will ensure that media contacts are aware of these events so they have an opportunity to highlight the Initiative.

#### *Engaging partners*

As G-FISH continues activities in Pemba, further engaging partners remains a priority to leverage funding and expertise to both scale up our efforts and continuously improve the effectiveness and reach of our activities. During the last 6-month period, the G-FISH program was particularly focused on building a strong base of support and open, constructive dialogue through the Conservation Committee. With this committee as the recognized face of the program, G-FISH will bring new partners into this committee rather than forming parallel committees or working groups. As the profile of the Conservation Committee has increased, it will now be easier to engage media partner and the private sector, two partners whose involvement to date has been peripheral. The success of the first two radio programs earlier this year opens the door for developing additional segments tailored to the particular needs of the system. G-FISH continues to engage with the Education Ministry and plans to pilot a program for grades 1-5 in 9 communities at the beginning of the next school year.

#### *Reach out to media*

When the G-FISH program initially got off the ground, a Communications Committee was set up. This group was not large enough and did not find common ground, so it was disbanded for lack of perceived benefit. As the program has matured, however, there has been renewed interest in reaching out to the media. Contacts have been made with a local journalist and blogger with environmental interests. When the new DC-based Program Manager visited Pemba in August of this year, he was interviewed by this journalist and the interview was put up on his blog site. A new contact with Radio Mozambique was also made.

#### **Next steps**

Over this last reporting period, G-FISH, through the Conservation Committee has established itself as a visible, locally-led initiative that seeks to improve the status and management of the Pemba Bay fishery. G-FISH has secured a commitment for sustained participation from its key stakeholders, specifically the government fishery entities and the

community and CCP leaders, and has developed a base level of trust and understanding among its partners. Trust and knowledge are fundamental inputs to the equation that will generate our expected results – more effective management. The FY2013 work plan focuses on putting all the pieces together and beginning implementation of pilot activities with the most willing and capable communities and CCPs.

## **Cambodia - Tonle Sap Project**

The success of the G-FISH Cambodia program and the SCALE process upon which it was designed, is predicated on having a system of stakeholders that defines the agenda of the Initiative, has a common understanding of the opportunities and constraints, and is willing to act collaboratively to undertake priority actions to achieve desired results.

The Initiative has three major, inter-related objectives:

- 1) To increase social capital and demand for sustainable management
- 2) To promote ecosystem-based approaches to fishery management
- 3) To establish and promote social and economic incentives

During the period of April 1, 2012 –September 30, 2012, G-FISH facilitated 7 meetings with stakeholders and partner FACT facilitated over 20 meetings with a total of 2000 participants, 496 or 25% of which were women. These meetings took place in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kampong Thom, and floating villages on the Tonle Sap Lake. Meetings included Task Force meetings as well as sensitization and strategic planning meetings with a wide range of stakeholders and fishing communities, who also benefited from trainings. During the second half of FY2012, the focus of the Initiative has been to implement concrete efforts in the community identified by the Task Forces and enhance information sharing and collaboration among fisheries stakeholders from the government to the local fisher.

In Cambodia, while the suspension of fishing lots has posed and will continue to pose a challenge for FiA and all stakeholders in the fisheries sector, it underscores the role that G-FISH has to play in building partnerships to build social capital and demonstrate a cohesive multi-sectoral approach.

On March 7, 2012, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to reform the fisheries sector by abolishing all commercial fishing lots in the country. This action has thrown the fisheries sector into disarray and caused massive confusion as to who can fish where within the lake, or whether these fishing concessions were meant to be set aside as fishing reserves or no-fishing areas. Currently, FiA's three year fisheries Plan is to establish 47 additional Community Fisheries (CFis) and to expand the boundary for another 33 existing communities, as well as protected areas in the 80 abolished fishing lots. Although officially the fishing lots have been transferred to community fisheries and conservation zones, lack of resources and low capacity of enforcement means that urgent assistance is needed to ensure that fisheries resources are properly managed and local people are empowered to participate in resource management and conservation. The project's role as a neutral facilitator for discussions is even more critical as the communities and government try to resolve this issue.

G-FISH is organizing efforts that work with the whole system to prioritize Tonle Sap fisheries, providing 70% of nutrition of the Cambodian people. G-FISH is also playing a role in improving communications among stakeholders at the local, regional, and national level; an activity that no other donor or stakeholder group is focused on during the current crisis in the sector. The government of Cambodia, through the FiA, has requested that G-FISH continue to act in a neutral communicator and facilitator role among different groups in the fisheries sector. Key achievements in the previous six months include:

- Partnership and Conservation Activities: G-FISH partnered with Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) to implement conservation activities in the Phat Sanday community. In addition, G-FISH facilitated the development

of a joint proposal between FACT and FiA. This is the first collaboration between the two entities after many years of failed communication and missed opportunities for collaboration. This proposal for \$150,000 in work on the Tonle Sap would work in a similar area and G-FISH and be an opportunity for leveraged funding for joint activities.

- Community and government collaboration: In addition to improved communication overall, the specific example of the CCF meeting with the Director of the FiA, Naou Touk, demonstrates the success in promoting relationships and collaboration. In the meeting, the two groups spoke openly for the first time in two years. The two agreed to meet more frequently and the Director gave the leader of the CCF his cell phone for future use should any issues arise. This effort, although seemingly small, is symbolic of a greater level of trust and willingness to work together to address fisheries conservation.

## Partnership and Conservation Activities

### *Fisheries Action Coalition Team in Phat Sanday*

G-FISH through the FACT implemented “Improvement of fishers' livelihood through fisheries conservation project” demonstrating a holistic approach to strengthening the functioning and management of existing CFis and CBOs by bringing together all relevant local stakeholders. G-FISH called for support in the targeted communities in the implementation of activities such as replanting flooded forest, patrolling, promoting flooded forest conservation, developing sign posts, and promoting conservation areas. FACT, a local conservation organization was identified to fulfill this role. FACT started in early May, in coordination with government officials, local authorities, environmental officers, and members of the fishing community, to raise awareness of laws and regulations related to fisheries in Cambodia and build the capacity of local community groups on resource preservation. Over **11,000 seedlings were nurtured and replanted** in the community by local students, fishers and members of local authorities and government agencies. This first ever replanting activity in Path Sanday community was a great success, with everyone lending a hand from monks to security guards, and community members themselves.

Through FACT’s activities, fisherwomen and men were active in monitoring on the fishery resources management's issues in the target commune with local authorities and local competent authorities. As result, local fishermen and local authorities self-reported that flooded forest and illegal fishing activities have reduced remarkably (estimated 70%) in the Phatsan Day commune. This is a result from active participation of CFI's committee members, other normal fishermen, especially patrol groups' members in active joining in a regular patrol over fishing domains and conversation areas within the Community Fisheries' boundaries. Based on the reports of the Coalition of Community Fisheries' committee members reported that throughout five months period at least 20 cases of illegal fishing were arrested and confiscated by the patrol groups under close cooperation with local authorities and local competent authorities. Especially, 9 fishermen who committed illegal fishing activities were arrested for education and making an agreement to stop committing of illegal fishing activities. Therefore, this has indicated clearly about capacity of both fisherwomen and me in working closely with duty bearers, mainly with local authorities and competent authorities in order protect and preserve fisheries for local livelihood of small scale fishermen. The increasing of understanding of both fishermen and local government officials on the importance of fisheries for the sustainable livelihood development led to a better and sustained fisheries protection. As result, fish catches has remarkably increased in the latest fishing season that this indicated about achievements of the project (based on a simple survey by selected key fishermen representatives in Phatsan Day commune). Activities and results included:

- FACT conducted two separated meetings with Commune Council's members (CFi), Community Fisheries' committee members, villagers, District Fisheries Administration Officials (DFiA) and District Environmental Officials to identify degraded areas for re-planting, selecting families to be responsible for collecting tree seedlings and maintaining and planning for re-planting on May 4, 2012. There were 62 participants in total, including 24 women.
- FACT provided two training courses to CFI's committee members on the importance of flooded forest and conservation and good governance principles with 48 participants in total including 19 women.
- FACT supported CFI's committee members in conducting regular monthly meetings with 459 participants in total, including 258 women and 106 youths. The meeting purposes were to offer all the CF committee members to

report about the progresses and challenges in relation to the CFI's operation such as patrolling activities, rate of survival of tree seedlings, and next activity plans.

- FACT facilitated the Coalition of Community Fisheries' committee members (CCF) to conduct 3 CCF' committee members regular meeting with 71 participants in total, including 15 women and 11 youths.
- FACT facilitated CFI's committee members and patrol groups members in conducting 45 patrolling efforts with 347 patrol's members.
- FACT facilitated CFI's committee members and local authorities in two re-plant flooded forest seedlings campaign in the nine hectares of degraded areas with 233 participants in total including 98 women and 79 school youths. As result 110,000 flooded forest seedlings were re-planted in three different conservation areas in Phat Sanday commune.
- FACT facilitated CFI's committee members, local authorities and FiA to conduct the CFI boundaries demarcation for three different Community Fisheries with 74 participants in total, including 8 women and 25 youths. As result, we identified 18 Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) points for the three communities.
- FACT facilitated local authorities and CFI' committee members to install the polls along the conservation boundaries with 103 participants in total including 15 women, 31 youths. As a result, 18 concrete pavement polls were installed along the conservation boundaries.
- FACT facilitated local authorities and CFI committee members to design environmental educational posters/sign boards. As result, 12 sign boards were developed and installed in the three different communities.
- FACT facilitated the CFI committee members to conduct a final project assessment's workshop with 51 participants in total, including 20 women and 19 youths.

#### *Lessons Learned*

According to FACT, some important lessons were learned from this activity. Relevant stakeholders found great results from activity implementation. However, the project may consider additional activities that could make this type of project even more effective such as providing alternative livelihood options as an element of the conservation project. Previously gathered commune statistics indicated that 99% of people in the Phat Sanday commune heavily rely on fishing activities. They do not have alternatives for livelihood beyond fishing. Based on this project implementation, FACT found that illegal fishing activities and flooded forest clearance by most villagers was due to a lack of alternative livelihoods both inside and outside communities. With these findings, and for project continuation, integrating livelihood activities as it will contribute to effective fisheries management, flooded forest conservation, and could reduce illegal fishing sine there will be another livelihood option.

At a reflection workshop conducted by FACT end of September, participants including officials and local authorities expressed positive feelings about the achievements of the project during the five-month period including the products developed to protect fisheries and flooded forests and to educate local fishers in the Phat Sanday commune. Participants also expressed that illegal fishing activities and flooded forest clearance have remarkably been reduced causing an increase in fish catches. Nevertheless, the length of the project was too short to continue to support the communities and build fishers capacity.

Program implementation allowed FACT to draw lessons learned about how to effectively work with local government officials. In the past, FACT has had challenges working with the government and has attempted to collaborate through advocacy but government officials have complained of FACT's works. Conversely, with the G-FISH conservation project, there has been great support from the government, especially sub-national government such as Commune Council's members, the Provincial Fisheries Administration and as well as Provincial Department of Environment in terms of project operation. In fact, traditional communication lines require an official invitation letter for Provincial Departments as well as Commune Council's members to participate in activities but they have opened communications and there is no need for official invitations for G-FISH activities. In addition, no need to make any for inviting us to join any events under this project. During the five month period of G-FISH project implementation, all activities of this program were actively participated and presided over by local government officials, especially Provincial Fisheries Administration. In addition, the greater collaboration at the national level with FiA demonstrates

the importance of the G-FISH work. Therefore, this is a great lesson learn of how to create effective cooperation and coordination with government officials.

## **Collaboration and Communications**

### *Combining Efforts of the Task Forces*

After reviewing the work plans and receiving feedback from partners, the Flooded Forests, Patrolling, Conservation, Fishing Lots, Livelihoods, and Communications Task Forces merged into three Task Forces in February 2012 to become more focused and combine the voluntary efforts of the members more efficiently. The new entities, the Conservation Task Force, the Communications Task Force, and the Livelihoods Task Force, decided to focus efforts in the Path Sanday commune of Kampong Thom Province so that a model of cooperation could be established that might be replicated later around the Tonle Sap Lake, given more funding is identified.

The newly created Task Forces, in collaboration with G-FISH, have issued a call for proposals from local and national conservation agencies to support targeted communities in the implementation of activities such as replanting flooded forest, patrolling, promoting flooded forest conservation, developing sign posts, and promoting conservation areas. The Fisheries Action Coalition Team was selected to implement the above activities; work has started in early May.

### *G-FISH Facilitates Discussion among FiA and Fishing Communities*

G-FISH successfully facilitated a series of meetings between FiA and CCF who in the past two years have only communicated with each other through an accusative manner. G-FISH' role as a neutral convening partner can open up potential future avenues for facilitating partnerships and future collaboration efforts to support fisheries on the Tonle Sap.

In a key demonstration of collaboration, the program has successfully facilitated a joint proposal between FACT and FiA for submission to the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance. If successful, the proposed work will expand the initial G-FISH pilot project to the surrounding CFis (of which some are newly established) and facilitate communication and networking among local stakeholders and the government to build trust, synergy, and achieve common goals for improved fisheries management.

### *Communications Task Force Launches Media Outreach Program*

In collaboration with the Communications Task Force, the G-FISH team has drafted a media outreach strategy to respond to the goals and commitments of stakeholders at the WSR retreat. The media outreach strategy involves media field trips, media capacity building, press conferences, and radio programs. All efforts are aimed at improving the partnership of the media in the sustainable fishery sector.

A media trip was organized from June 20-22 with the participation of 23 journalists from media agencies and 10 members of the Communications Task Force, including representatives of the Fisheries Administration. The purpose of the trip was to improve the knowledge of journalists on issues concerning fisheries on the Tonle Sap to encourage collaboration among the media, community and government partners, and to help media personnel to report stories they can do so accurately, and taking into consideration the perspectives of all stakeholders.

During the trip participants were encouraged to learn about fisheries issues in the lake and to meet, interview and to gather information for potential media work. Throughout the trip it was ensured that participants were exposed to a variety of viewpoints through meeting with local authorities, including commune chiefs, representatives of Fisheries Administration and Department of Environment at SNOUL conservation area, community members and fishermen. The trip resulted in a significant increase in articles published in newsletters, radio and visual reports for television. G-FISH tracked 35 media coverage of important fisheries issues in 13 different media outlets, including three TV channels, 14 radio broadcasts, 9 print articles, and 11 web-based write-ups.

In addition, G-FISH also produced and circulated to all stakeholders a sustainable fisheries newsletter, both online, through social media and in print. The newsletter highlighted the work and concerns of the stakeholders, and Task Force Members.

#### *Engaging Future Generations: Community Award*

The Conservation Task Force in cooperation with representatives from the three communities in Path Sanday, teachers in Prek Ksach, Tuol Neang Sav and Kampong Chamlorng villages, and G-FISH jointly announced a drawing and writing competition held in June 2012. The theme of the competition was fish and nature, participating children were encouraged to express their ideas and think about their immediate and greater environment.

Children studying in Grade 5 and 6 in the above mentioned villages were invited to join the competition either individually or in teams in two categories, either drawing or story writing. The submission deadline for entries was June 23, 2012 after which a panel comprised of community leaders, teachers and community members considered all the submitted works. Throughout the competition, local teachers were responsible for guiding the children and educating them about the importance of flooded forests for fisheries on Tonle Sap, and the value and benefit enhanced biodiversity as well as human consumption.



Over 170 children submitted their works for the competition, and the winners received an award from the Communication Task Force on July 7th 2012 at a Community Award Ceremony in Path Sanday commune. 'Edutainment' was provided to entertain the participating children, but also to highlight the significance of biodiversity and caring for one's environment.

#### *Participation in a National Fisheries Workshop and Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting*

The Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings are chaired jointly by the FiA and the EU, and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss strategic plans, including the annual work plan for fisheries in Cambodia. This is a forum for high-level government, donor agencies, and NGOs to join on a monthly basis and discuss pressing issues. In April, G-FISH presented its work to members of the TWG. Following the presentation, the Director General of Fisheries acknowledged the need for better collaboration and further buy-in for partners and communities which aligned with the G-FISH objectives. G-FISH is responding to this call to action by assisting the Director General in meeting with community and fisheries leaders to build common ground and improve communications and collaboration between parties. G-FISH successfully facilitated a series of meetings between FiA and CCF who had not communicated in two years. G-FISH's role as a neutral convening partner has opened up future collaboration efforts. In August, the Director General asked G-FISH to continue working in Cambodia and to help facilitate improved relationships among government agencies and civil society.

#### **Next Steps**

G-FISH Cambodia is seeking a new Program Manager to work with staff on acting as the neutral convener sharing information at the national and local level on fisheries management. G-FISH will continue to work with the three Task Forces to promote information and awareness through radio programs and newsletters and will pursue other opportunities as they become available. G-FISH will also pursue options to develop an online resource for information sharing. Finally, in Cambodia G-FISH will continue to collaborate with partners like WorldFish Center and HARVEST who are working in fisheries management on the Tonle Sap as well.

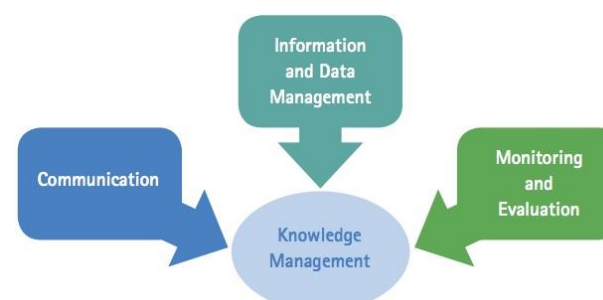
#### **Associate Awards**

FHI 360 continues to work with partners and investigate opportunities for Associate Awards. G-FISH also continues to search for opportunities to use the SCALE methodology and strategic communications to improve biodiversity program outcomes. G-FISH sought opportunities for funds and awards in Mozambique, Honduras, and Cambodia in addition to discussing potential opportunities with USAID in the Philippines and Colombia. In addition, FHI 360 colleagues shared information materials and advocated for G-FISH as a mechanism for potential new work in Iraq and Myanmar.

## ***Knowledge Management and Sharing***

The diffusion and dissemination of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture information and knowledge has emerged as a key issue for governments, communities, private enterprise, and civil society. To ensure that the existing knowledge including best practices, tools, and models of sustainable fisheries management are readily available and accessible to the broadest array of stakeholders and practitioners, G-FISH has worked to improve knowledge management and foster information sharing by informing partners and the wider community about conservation and fisheries. G-FISH does this in all of its country programs and at a global level by maintaining regular flow of information to partners and the wider fisheries community on new developments and better management practices. G-FISH also seeks to validate a social approach to fisheries management to USAID Missions to understand the value proposition of using locally-owned and led solutions.

Overall, three things feed into knowledge management: 1) communication; 2) information and data; and 3) monitoring and evaluation. Information and data management is about making sure the right information is in the right place at the right time to support decision-making. Monitoring and evaluation is the source of much of this information and one of the ways by which adaptive management is practiced. Communications seeks to influence knowledge, attitude, and skills in support of behavioral change.<sup>1</sup>



## **Communication**

Communication is a key input and complementary activity of knowledge management (KM). Communications allows the dissemination of knowledge to improve coordination and increased effectiveness and impact of projects. The integration of KM with communication activities allows a substantial reduction in costs and generates products that are consistent, more valuable, and relevant for the different audiences, enhancing effectiveness.<sup>2</sup> This section will focus on communication to influence change at a global level and reference to distinct communications efforts in country programs are highlighted in their sections.

### *2012 Seafood Summit*

The Seafood Summit is an annual event bringing together global representatives from the seafood industry and conservation community for in-depth discussions, presentations, and networking around the issue of sustainable seafood. The goal of the Summit is to foster dialogue and partnerships that lead to a seafood marketplace that is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable. The theme of this conference was "Evolving Solutions for

<sup>1</sup> CGIAR Challenge Program on Food and Water: <http://waterandfood.org/approach/knowledge-management/>

<sup>2</sup> Adaptation Fund, [http://www.adaptation-fund.org/sites/default/files/AFB.EFC\\_.5.3\\_Knowledge\\_Management.pdf](http://www.adaptation-fund.org/sites/default/files/AFB.EFC_.5.3_Knowledge_Management.pdf)



New Horizons" and was intended to be forward thinking and outcome-oriented. In September 2012, G-FISH attended as a premium sponsor of the Summit.

With more than 500 participants representing approximately 45 countries, G-FISH participated in three panel discussions. One for each country project: Honduras, Mozambique, and Cambodia to highlight work across three different geographic areas. The panels were:

- Catalyzing Change from Supply to Demand through Public Private Partnerships: The Central American Spiny Lobster Fishery;
- Food Security for a Nation: Collaborating on Community Fisheries in Cambodia;
- Building Community Support through Evidence-Based Research for Fisheries Management in Mozambique.

As a key sponsor, G-FISH was an essential contributor to the Seafood Summit design and execution. The Seafood Summit offered 53 panels and workshops - significantly more than previous years - to ensure the full range of issues from a basic introduction to sustainability for newcomers to more advanced problem solving workshops. While many of the topics were focused on Asia, other global issues included illegal fishing, aquaculture, and food security.



Figure 1 G-FISH Panelists

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Seafood Summit in Hong Kong had 503 participants who came from 45 different countries, with close to one third (33%) from Asia/Asia-Pacific (16% from China). Nearly half the total participants (45%) were self-identified as "non-profit"; however it is important to note that this classification encompasses industry associations, foundations, intergovernmental organizations, conservation groups, and organizations that classify themselves as "Other". There was an equal representation of small and large businesses (15.6% large and 15.3% small) to make up 31% of the total attendance. Finally, it is noteworthy that for 60% of the participants, this was their first Summit.

Summit Year	Total # of attendees	% NonProfit	% Business	% Science, Gov't & Academia	% Media	% Non-US/Canada Attendees
2008 (Barcelona)	350	42	33	17	5	62
2009 (San Diego)	475	36	40	13	5	29
2010 (Paris)	641	59	31	9	8	72
2011 (Vancouver)	708	44	39	10	7	19
2012 (Hong Kong)	<b>503</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62</b>

In addition to participating in the Summit, Acting Director, Jenny Barker, and Honduras Chief of Party Jimmy Andino, attended a field trip with 36 individuals visiting local seafood attractions including the Fish Education Centre hosted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of Hong Kong where they were exposed to local educational materials including a video and a tour of its learning center, followed by a question and answer period hosted by AFCD representatives. At the Aberdeen Wet Fish market, participants were led by Fish Marketing Organization representatives to see seafood trade activities in one of Asia's biggest ports. Participants were presented with an overview of the seafood trade in China by local expert Felix Chan. In addition, G-FISH participated in the media briefing around the State of Sustainable Seafood. The focus of the first briefing was to set the context for the dialogue going on during the Summit and by highlighting the fact that the sustainable seafood movement has deep roots and a rich history, and that its future is being shaped by many different stakeholders in the global seafood marketplace. It was stressed that since seafood has many social, environmental, and economical implications, the need to plan for a sustainable future is important. Speakers on the topic of sustainable seafood gave a broad overview of the state of the movement from their unique perspectives and provided a look in what the future holds. G-FISH Acting Director



participated on this panel with Patricia Majluf, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia; Jim Cannon, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership; Henry Demone, High Liner Foods; and Dawn Martin, SeaWeb.

### *Global Partnership on Oceans*

In February, the World Bank announced its new Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) which aims to raise US\$1.5 billion for governments, scientists, NGOs, and companies to collaborate on ocean initiatives such as improving marine protected areas, reforming fisheries management, and expanding sustainable aquaculture. On April 19, G-FISH participated in the launch of the World Bank's GPO in Washington, DC. More than 120 participants from 79 different organizations representing a mix of nations, UN representatives, foundations, private sector, scientists, and civil society attended the event. With considerable expertise and resources, everyone around the table reaffirmed their interest in working together for healthier oceans in a global partnership for action.

The goal of the Partnership is to sustainably enhance the economic, social and ecological performance of the ocean's ecosystems and living resources, with improved benefits captured by coastal and island developing countries and global benefits accruing to the planet as a whole. The meeting had three objectives a) Present what is being proposed for the Global Partnership for Oceans, including what it would do and achieve, and how it would work in practice; b) Give a first opportunity for everyone to express their views on what is being proposed in the Partnership; and c) Commit to the next steps in the collaborative development of the Partnership. Meeting participants engaged in table-based discussions around two key questions regarding targets and how the partners would work together, for which key points were reported back in plenary.

Since the launch meeting, GPO developed a framework to present at Rio +20 with approximately 80 signatories. Since G-FISH is a project and not an organization, it is not a signatory but endorses the principles and fundamentals of the GPO. G-FISH has reached out to the leaders of the GPO to discuss how they could better collaborate and leverage resources for our work globally.

### *Media Coverage*

Honduras has received extensive media coverage nationally and internationally. Multiple newspaper articles at the national and regional levels, several TV interviews with local stakeholders were part of the coverage in the last few months.

### *G-FISH Tales*

G-FISH Tales is a quarterly newsletter updating Alliance partners and allies about the activities of G-FISH and our partners. The last edition of G-FISH Tales was Summer 2012, released in August. This edition reported on the G-FISH work in Pemba Bay, the Tonle Sap fishery in Cambodia, and highlighted the continued work by SLI in Honduras. Additionally, a Spring 2012 edition of G-FISH tales was sent out in April 2012.

### *G-FISH Website*

The Global FISH Alliance redesigned its [website](#) earlier this year and continues to update it to feature its new work. G-FISH has also increased its social media presence by developing a G-FISH Facebook page which can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Global-FISH-Alliance/198270160253219?sk=wall>. Please see the monitoring and evaluation report for the performance metrics on the G-FISH web presence.

### *Materials Developed*

G-FISH developed a one-pager for distribution with key achievements of the SLI in addition to developing two success stories. Also, G-FISH designed a new brochure highlighting the projects areas of interest.

## **Information and Data**

### *Fisheries Course*

Since January 2012, G-FISH has been developing a fisheries training course for USAID staff. The purpose of this course is to introduce USAID staff to fisheries issues and their importance to development objectives such as food security, economic growth, poverty reduction, governance, and biodiversity conservation. The course will focus on presenting proven approaches for improving and reforming fisheries management. In January, G-FISH had a conference call with 11 representatives from seven partner organizations to brainstorm ideas for the course. After emails and discussions with partners, the agenda was finalized with participation guaranteed by five Alliance members. The final course agenda is:

SESSION TOPIC	Presenter
Introductions and Welcome	USAID
Fisheries and Development Trends – Why care about fisheries?	USAID
The tragedy of the commons – group exercise	EDF
Introduction to Successful Approaches Integrated approaches (Nature, Wealth, Power, and People) to Grow, Control and Maintain Fisheries Establish a common vision and set program goals	USAID
Supporting Host Country Government Commitments : FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, CITES National Action Plans	USAID/ NOAA
Integrating Across Funding Sources at USAID	USAID
Ecosystem-based approach to Fisheries Management: Growing fisheries, increasing natural productivity and enhancing resiliency EAFM, Ecological reserves, non-destructive gear, community based management. Networks of marine protected areas, seascape planning.	<i>Partners</i> WCS TNC
Controlling and Maintaining Fisheries: Governance, enabling environment and rights-based approaches Co-management and nested governance frameworks, enabling environment, stock assessment, enforcement? URI Catch shares and rights-based approaches: MEY vs MSY, legal framework, enabling environment: EDF	<i>Partners</i> URI EDF
Redirecting Global Markets and Building Social Capital Global markets and demand – certification, labeling: WWF Building Social Capital – locally-owned and driven process: FHI 360	<i>Partners</i> WWF FHI 360

Integrated Programming/ Case study – group activity	<i>Partners</i> FHI 360
Reflections, Commitments and Presentations	All

The training agenda includes a focus on fisheries and development trends, linking fisheries to USAID programs, and lessons learned in fisheries management. Due to constraints at USAID, the course has not yet been completed at this time but a final time is being proposed for the course and it will be completed by the end of the project.

#### *Ecotrust Ocean Fund*

In March, Ecotrust invited G-FISH and USAID to attend and sponsor an event called "Developing an Ocean Investment Fund: Advancing Healthy Ocean Ecosystems and Communities through Integrated Investment" tied to the announcement of the World Bank Global Partnership for Oceans. G-FISH acted as a Contributing Partner in support of this event. After meeting at the World Oceans Summit, G-FISH partnered with Ecotrust to host a meeting on April 24-25, 2012, at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. focusing on financing reforms for sustainable fisheries.

The meeting, "Developing the Ocean Fund: Advancing Healthy Ocean Ecosystems and Communities through Investment Innovation", looked at innovative approaches to fisheries reform using a triple bottom line and represented an opportunity to jump-start public-private partnerships in investment and finance in this area. Ecotrust continues to work with partners to promote this long-term effort.

The overarching goal of the meeting is to advance global private and public investment in coastal and ocean ecosystems that achieves sustainable economic, ecological, and social returns. This meeting was held at the World Bank in Washington DC from April 25 to 26, 2012.

The future of the Ecotrust Fund required a three-year commitment to planning activities; thus G-FISH was not able to commit to longer work with the fund. However, G-FISH continues to be in touch with Ecotrust staff sharing information and resources as they become available.

#### *Fisheries and Food Security*

FHI 360 continues to use and promote the [food security fact sheets](#) on eight countries.

#### *Mapping of G-FISH Partner Fishery Management Activities*

G-FISH continues to pursue the goal of improving awareness of where partners work around the world. To help disseminate this information a map of [Alliance Partner Activities](#) was developed and can be viewed as either a Google map or in table format. It features 54 projects from eight organizations, is searchable by keyword, and can be filtered by organization, location, or activity focus.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

### *Success Stories*

In preparation for the Seafood Summit and to document the successes of the longest running program for G-FISH, two success stories were developed about the SLI. Entitled "Engaging the Private Sector" and "Supporting Indigenous Communities" success stories (Annex 1&2).

Please see a more complete report of activities in the Monitoring and Evaluation Annual Report.

## **Spiny Lobster Initiative Honduras**

The continued success of the G-FISH SLI program is due to a system of stakeholders that has consistently remained engaged over the life of the project. Their continued effort has led to substantial changes in all aspects of the fishery from governance to social and environmental issues.

The Initiative has three major, inter-related objectives:

- 1) To increase social capital and demand for sustainable management
- 2) To promote ecosystem-based approaches to fishery management
- 3) To establish and promote social and economic incentives

During the period of April 1, 2012 –September 30, 2012, G-FISH facilitated 14 meetings with stakeholders and partner with a total of 594 participants, 186 or 31% of which were women.

The total number of persons receiving SLI-supported training is 1354 (23% women), not including those individuals taking part in poster sessions and panel presentations. The SLI has supported participation and inclusion of 320 individuals from traditionally marginalized ethnic minority groups (predominantly the Miskito and Garifuna communities), 29% of which were women.

## Partnership and Conservation Activities

*Declaration of a marine territory for the exclusive use of artisanal fishing for Honduran Mosquito indigenous population*

In an effort to establish an ecosystem-based approach to management of fisheries and empower marginalized groups, SLI has been working with TNC, CME, and stakeholders from La Moskitia to establish an indigenous rights-based artisanal fishing zone, combined with designated no-take zones, in the Mosquito Cays. The proposed total area of the reserve is 15,400 sq km, approximately 1.5 million hectares, and within this area, it is proposed that 20% be declared as no take zones. This effort works specifically on building the ability of fisher groups to manage their own fisheries, filling the current vacuum in marine governance by providing tools to collect, analyze, and interpret fisheries information at a local level. Ultimately the program seeks to develop a network of fish refuges and build their effective management through fisher-led no take reserves that will encompass 20% of the suitable fishing areas in Honduran Caribbean waters by 2016.

Currently the local Miskito stakeholders are seeking the active participation of private and government sectors involved in the fishery to empower the local authorities and fishers to declare and manage their fisheries in a sustainable and profitable manner through good practices and environmental responsibility. SLI facilitated consultation meetings held in La Ceiba, Moskitia, and Roatan to ensure wide participation and representation in the development of the technical aspects of the marine reserves plan that was submitted to the governmental for endorsement, awaiting legal declaration by the Honduran National Congress. To formalize the agreement, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on September 13th among the Miskito authorities and indigenous organizations in the region including MASTA (Miskito Rights NGO), Dakni (Miskito NGO), APBGADH (Active Miskito Divers Association), AMHBLI (Handicap Miskito Divers Association), and SEPLAN (government).

### KEY STATEMENTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND GOVERNMENT

"The Spiny Lobster Initiative has shown great concern and has helped us to understand more about the lobster fishery in Honduras and how we can improve the fishery in the Moskitia"

**Nora Trino- Governor of La  
Moskitia , Honduras.**

"The Spiny Lobster Initiative has helped us to get information and to have room for new opportunities and contacts. During the transition to phase out lobster diving, the Miskito divers are learning how to better manage fisheries"

**Oswaldo Echeverria- President  
of Miskito Active Diver  
Association**

Nora Trino, Governor of La Moskitia, championed this initiative, together with a representative from MASTA, presented the proposal for the declaration of the marine reserves in the Miskito cays (54 in total) to the President of Honduras at the Minister's Council in Tegucigalpa in late September. The proposal currently rests with the National Institute for Conservation and Forest Development, Protected Areas, and Wildlife (IFC) for final approval and official declaration. SLI also facilitated meetings in La Ceiba and the Bay Islands with the private sector for sensitization around the proposed protected areas. This was an important step to harmonize concepts, zoning, limits and management towards getting consensus.

With support from the Summit Foundation, TNC and CME, in collaboration with Spiny Lobster Initiative (SLI), are promoting indigenous rights and the declaration of no-fishing zones and areas of responsible fishing in 54 Miskito Cays. The effort allows for the preservation of biodiversity while respecting indigenous rights-use and permitting

#### KEY STATEMENTS FROM PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS

"The Spiny Lobster Initiative has played a leading role creating spaces and conditions for trainings and awareness among industry about the benefits of a sustainable fishery."

**Francisco Terry—President of  
Processing Plant Association  
(ASOPROMAS), La Ceiba,  
Honduras**

"Overall, the Spiny Lobster Initiative has succeeded in creating awareness about the different aspects that need to be changed so that the lobster fishery is sustainable and safe."

**Glenda Pena—Pesca del  
Atlantico Company, Honduras**

artisanal fishing in a proposed protected marine area includes 15,450km<sup>2</sup>, which will be the **biggest marine protected area in the MesoAmerican region**. SLI worked with local Miskito authorities, including the Governor and Congress, to endorse this initiative, along with the Miskito Diving Associations. A key element of securing this endorsement was the exchange G-FISH organized with EDF in Belize in April 2012. G-FISH sponsored a visit for Miskito leaders with Belizean artisanal fishers to learn about best practices for artisanal lobster fishery. After the trip, the Miskito delegation presented lessons learned while participating in the **Third Technical Lobster Symposium** in La Ceiba in May. They highlighted the importance of exchanging knowledge and experiences, especially among peers and fishers. This led to a pilot project for artisanal trap lobster fishery and buy-in for the larger network of protected areas. When asked at this year's symposium, 88% (37 of 42) participants at the Third Lobster Symposium responded with a "yes" when asked if the SLI has achieved its objective of improving communication and promoting collaboration among the key lobster fishery stakeholders.

#### *Third Annual Technical Symposium on the Spiny Lobster Fishery*

For the third consecutive year, SLI held the Annual Spiny Lobster Symposium in La Ceiba, Honduras from May 29-30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 entitled "*Transitioning to a Reform of Fisheries*". This third technical symposium was designed to further strengthen collaboration between key players working in the lobster fishery sector in

Honduras. A main focus of the symposium was transitioning away from dive fishing for lobster and the government's plan for the transition prior to the ban in 2013. The agenda included an array of technical panels, presentations, as well as trainings on fisheries management. Around one hundred forty five (145) stakeholders from all sectors, including 25 representatives from the Honduran national and local government, 39 members of the lobster industry, and numerous environmental and civil organizations participated in the event. Together, the participants represented key parts of the value chain of the lobster fishery, at the regional, national, and international level. The objectives of this symposium were to:

1. Strengthen local capacities and national governance mechanisms of the lobster fishery;
2. Disseminate knowledge about the implementation of measures undertaken to transition away from dive fishing for lobster in Honduras;
3. Raise awareness with actors at all levels about how to implement activities and strategies for managing the spiny lobster fishery;



4. Facilitate the reform process throughout the entire system with a focus on the lead role of the government in the new fishery law framework in Honduras.

At the symposium, there was strong interest by fishery stakeholders to work together which resulted in declarations of action by divers and the industry. All parties agreed to exchange experiences and collaborate to have a lobster fishery that is more environmentally sustainable, economically profitable, and safer for everyone. Some highlights of this event were:

- The opening ceremony was chaired by Ms. Rene Gutierrez, Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture (DIGEPESCA) and Mr. Venancio Savio, Governor of the Department of Atlantida. DIGEPESCA declared that it was not planning to request an extension on the scuba dive ban for lobster ensuring the end to diving in 2013. DIGEPESCA will implement an action plan during the transition from diving in anticipation of the closure of lobster diving in 2013. DIGEPESCA also said they would follow-up with the review committee of the National Congress on the adoption of the new fisheries law of Honduras, which is expected to be approved this year.
- The presence of 25 Honduran government representatives was very encouraging, including three representatives from DIGEPESCA and five representatives of government agencies that make up the Intergovernmental Commission for the Care and Prevention for the Problem of Dive Fishing (CIAPEB). The national transition plan for lobster diving has been submitted for review to CIAPEB, who will be responsible for submitting the plan to key stakeholders in the near term.
- Local government authorities, including the Governors of La Moskitia, the Bay Islands, and Atlantida attended which is important for efforts to strengthen advocacy on the issue of the lobster fishery.
- The lobster industry was also well represented, with participation from 39 members, including eight captains and 22 owners of diving and fishing vessels, in addition to nine seafood processing companies from La Ceiba and the Bay Islands and international buyers, Darden Restaurants, Inc.
- This symposium reflected a renewed commitment to collaboration among partners. In addition to participation from the USAID Mission, increased cooperation and financial commitment was made by Darden Restaurants, Inc., USAID/MAREA, BCIE/CAMBio Project, CME, TNC, WWF, Healthy Reef Initiative, and others. Partners' participation at the event enriched the discussions and was appreciated by all. Some donors expressed particular interest in developing a closer relationship with SLI and transitioning the Initiative-led activities in the coming year.
- The media played an important role by giving significant coverage to the event nationally and internationally. Media highlighted key issues of the symposium. The overall event and individual sessions were also filmed by the International League of Conservation Photographers.



Figure 2 Director of Fisheries



Figure 3 Sessions

G-FISH partner Darden Restaurants Inc. sponsored in addition to attending the symposium and donated \$3000 to ensure it was a success. At the symposium, Darden renewed its commitment to the SLI and later contributed \$10,000 in additional funding to continue SLI.

*Two-thirds of the 74 SLI stakeholders that were active system participants in FY2012, have been stakeholders for 3 or all 4 of the years of the program. Just over a third have been active participants since the program inception. It is notable that each of the stakeholder groups (civil society, donor organization, government, environment, media, and private sector) has maintained an active presence in the system.*

*When asked if the SLI has achieved its objective of improving communication and promoting collaboration among the key lobster fishery stakeholders, 88% (37 of 42) participants at the Third Lobster Symposium responded with a "yes".*

Please see **Annex (3)** for a full report of the symposium.

### *Exchange of Honduran Leaders and Governor of La Moskitia with Artisanal Fishers in Belize*

As part of SLI's strategic objective to empower marginalized groups for more sustainable management of fisheries and to assist with the transition efforts away from diving for lobster, SLI sponsored an exchange visit of four community leaders from the Active Miskito Diver Association and the Governor of the Moskitia with artisanal lobster fishers in Belize. The purpose of the exchange was to learn from and sensitize fishers about the importance of the responsible fishing areas by looking at the experience in Belize, as well as to demonstrate how to achieve economic sustainability of the activity while preserving the marine ecosystem of La Moskitia. SLI worked in collaboration with the EDF for logistical field support and to develop the program.

The exchange trip had a packed agenda and was well received by the participants. The trip started in Belize City with a presentation given by a Fisheries Department representative on the establishment of fisheries management in Belize, how the different components of the fisheries department connect together through licensing, control and monitoring and the setting of quotas to provide management to national fisheries. This presentation illustrated the need for participative management in fisheries with active involvement from government fisheries department. The next couple of days were dedicated to field visits to different villages and meetings with fishers in Sarteneja and Punta Gorda to look at how they are seeking to diversify their fisheries beyond conch and lobster. Tours of cooperatives were organized to show important ways to link to the value chain, as well as briefings on rights-based fisheries approach and co-managing marine reserves. TIDE and EDF, two NGOs working with local associations and spear heading pilot projects in the area provided the presentations. The four-day journey concluded with a boat tour of Port of Honduras marine reserve including a visit to the marine station to see how the rangers enforce the regulations of the park and learn about protected areas and rights-based fisheries management. At last, a stop at one of the cays enabled participants to learn how to build lobster shade from wood poles and corrugated metal sheets, and took a trip out to an area where the lobster shades had been deployed to demonstrate that the lobsters use them and how easy it is to catch the lobster.



Figure 4 ©ILCP

Following this exchange, the Miskito delegation was excited about what they had learned; that there are lots of ideas being piloted in Belize that could be replicated in La Moskitia and that fishers have to look outside their comfort zone and retrain into other activities. Importantly, behind all the projects are well-organized associations or cooperatives with which donors and other organizations could work. Participants presented the main takeaways from the trip at the Third Technical Lobster Symposium in La Ceiba in May. Additionally, as a follow-on, the Governor from La Moskitia has been coordinating and networking local stakeholders for the establishment of a Miskito indigenous rights-based use of responsible fishing area in combination with no-take zones in the fishery grounds in La Moskitia- one of the biggest area under this category in the Mesoamerican region,. SLI, Center of Marine Ecology (CME) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have been working with the Governor and local populations as partners to provide technical assistance to the local stakeholders in this initiative.

### **Community, private sector, and government collaboration**

#### *Dive Closure and National Transition Plan*

The government of Honduras will uphold the ban on commercial lobster diving scheduled to go into effect in June 2013. After considerable lobbying and mediation from different stakeholders, including the Spiny Lobster Initiative, in September the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) and the Directorate General of Fisheries (DIGEPESCA) shared the National Plan for Transition and Closure of Diving in Honduras with the donor community. To promote and strengthen a more transparent process, SLI encouraged the government to widely circulate the plan and has made its database of over 310 members available to the government for dissemination.

The Transition Plan describes the characteristics of the transition, including the different phases of the closing, financing strategies, and technical aspects. The plan focuses on key areas; creation of alternative livelihoods for divers, protection of the fisheries grounds, financing opportunities, and the reconversion of the lobster diving industry. The plan is now under the coordination of an intergovernmental commission, a coalition of eight governmental agencies (health, labor, human rights, marine merchant, fisheries, environment, and planning and ethics affairs), as well as a representative from the national congress and one from the President's office. Next steps are to appoint a national committee made up of diver associations, industry, NGOs, OSPESCA, and donors to oversee the implementation of the plan. The budget for the transition in the plan has been set at \$19.258 million.

For short term goals (2012- 2013), a small grants program supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (SERNA in Spanish) and UNDP has been established to fund the development of alternative livelihoods in La Moskitia with a focus on protecting the environment and encouraging local development. Approved projects will help strengthen the economic and social fabric of the communities, as the funds will be transferred to community-based organizations for management and execution. Details of funding of medium (March 2013- 2015) and long term goals (2015 and beyond) have yet to be established. Additionally, it is mentioned in the plan that MAREA will match funds with the UNNP/PPD Small Grant Program for an initiative to support 15 projects in La Moskitia, which SLI helped develop back in 2010.

The plan also provides strategies for the reconversion of the diving industry by reducing fleet size and harmonizing fishing techniques; however no details are provided for the funding of this component. The reconversion of diving boats is mentioned, but few details are provided on how to achieve this and if funding will be made available. Additionally, regulations and governmental actions are required to be put in place for the enforcement.

In regards to zoning and protection of the fisheries grounds, the plan mentioned different efforts by SLI partners, such as The Nature Conservancy and Center for Marine Ecology to create a fisheries and marine reserve network in northern Honduras. This ambitious five-year project aims to catalyze action within fishing communities and the industrial fisheries sectors by empowering these stakeholders with the knowledge to take responsibility for marine stewardship. The goal is to engage fishers in the decision making process including in the designation, monitoring and protection of no take reserves as a tool to recuperate declining fish stocks and provide insurance for the fish populations of the future.

Lastly, SLI's role as mentioned in the plan is as a partner who can provide trainings, communications, and serve as a neutral facilitator to develop a space for dialogue and exchanges such symposiums, workshops, other technical knowledge sharing experiences as required for a smooth transition. It is encouraging that SLI's catalytic role has been recognized by the government of Honduras and included into the plan based on SLI's expertise in mediation and facilitation demonstrated throughout the last years working towards a sustainable, environmental and safe lobster fishery in Honduras.



Key stakeholders in the spiny lobster fishery including Darden, NOAA, USAID, MAREA and others participated in an important meeting in Tegucigalpa in September with representatives from the government of Honduras in the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture. At this meeting, the government of Honduras declared that the scuba diving ban for lobster will be enforced in 2013, an accomplishment decades in the making. Key accomplishments:

- Honduran Vice Minister of Agriculture committed that Honduras will not ask for an extension of the deadline for discontinuance of this gear type.
- Darden Restaurants announced that, if Honduras continued to allow fishing with SCUBA gear, they would have to buy fisheries products from other countries, reinforcing their future investments in Honduras will be linked to closure of the scuba-dive fishing industry in Honduras.
- Visit succeeded in strengthening the relationship among US players, particularly among USAID contractors in the Spiny Lobster Initiative and MAREA, and with the NGO, Center for Marine Ecology, that is working with the Honduran government to develop an Exclusive Zone for artisanal fishers, where use of SCUBA will be prohibited.
- Another possible source of funding for alternatives to SCUBA fishing in State Department's program for labor rights.

"Our partnership with FHI 360, USAID and the Honduran Government for the Global FISH Alliance's Spiny Lobster Initiative in Honduras has successfully demonstrated the importance of engaging all of the stakeholders in the value chain—from divers to boat owners to processors to buyers—to promote long-term solutions. We are proud to be a part of the Alliance to demonstrate how industry, government, and nonprofits can come together to promote solutions."

**Roger Bing—Vice President,  
Seafood Purchasing, Darden  
Restaurants, Inc.**

SLI will continue to work with partners to ensure the government of Honduras remains committed to ending diving in 2013.

#### *Media Awards for Excellence in Sustainable Lobster Fishery Coverage*

A major component of SLI's communication strategy for 2012 was to promote greater transparency and equity in communications around the lobster fishery issues in Honduras. Back in April, SLI in collaboration the Chamber of Tourism of La Ceiba, and other local partners launched a five-month media competition to encourage increased coverage of topics such as the state of the lobster fishery, environmental sustainability, conservation of marine ecosystem, biodiversity conservation, Tourism and Security in Honduras, as well as to recognize journalistic excellence. Reporters were encouraged to make submissions of published materials publications in print, television, or broadcast, during April to August timeframe to be reviewed by a multidisciplinary evaluation committee composed of media, fishery representatives, and tourism officials.

Overall, the evaluation committee received 17 print submissions for full reports of press coverage of the lobster fishery (newspaper), 28 submissions of brief reports (newspaper), and 7 submissions full reports on television. The finalists were recognized during an award ceremony that was held in September 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 at CEUTEC, Technical University in La Ceiba. Eleven journalists from different media outlets along the north coast of Honduras were awarded and one media company was recognized for its institutional support in coverage.

This media award program allowed for the lobster fishery issues to be better incorporated into the media agenda at the national and regional levels, providing an opportunity to cover important topics such best marine and fisheries practices, conservation strategies, transition activities, and to highlight the role of the good practitioners. A component of the media program included trainings in best marine practices and responsible fisheries for the media participants. The training helped journalists to critically manage information and improve clarity and accuracy of information from the source to the public. Also, the activity strengthened the consistency of core messages stressing responsible behavior thus engaging the media in a more the proactive role of informing stakeholders and encouraging them to act

responsibly. This is an important step in looking at forward linkages in the value chain towards more sustainable, profitable and safe lobster fishery in Honduras.

It is noteworthy that the number of articles and press mentions (TV, online, and print) of SLI objectives continues to increase each year, with 26 in FY12, and a total of 50 to date. SLI is exploring the possibility of continuing this activity to continue bring light to the issues and promote broader and better coverage.

#### *XVI Congress of the MesoAmericana Conservation Society in Panama*

To increase visibility among the conservation community, SLI participated at XVI Congress for the MesoAmericana Conservation Society in Panama from September 17-21, 2012. The Congress entitled: “*Sustainability of the water resources and biodiversity in MesoAmerica*” represents one of the biggest encounters of the conservation community in MesoAmerica region, with over 400 participants from universities, environmental projects in the region, central American government representatives, student community, researchers, donors and environmental NGOs. Jimmy Andino and Hugo Escoto from SLI country staff attended the event. At the Congress, Jimmy Andino SLI’s Chief of Party participated in a poster session, as a panelist showcasing “*Spiny Lobster Initiative: A Social Change in the Fisheries*”. In addition, SLI had a booth exhibit in the environmental fair where materials were handed out and videos played highlighted the program’s activities. SLI also participated in a full day marine coastal symposium for Central American fisheries. This congress presented a unique opportunity to inform and exchange technical expertise among participants about SLI activities in Honduras. It was a great forum to showcase the social change behavior paradigm in the lobster fishery and to information exchange among the conservation community of the MesoAmerican region.



Figure 5 SLI Poster